

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

Work to remove approximately 50 mature trees infested with the Asian longhorned beetle in an eastern portion of Linden has been completed, bringing the total of infested trees removed from the Middlesex/Union infestation area to 613. At this point, all known infested trees have been removed, all before emergence for this season could be detected, a key goal in preventing further infestation.

The most recent trees removed were in an industrial area between the New Jersey Turnpike and the Arthur Kill. Meanwhile, survey work in the expanded quarantine area necessitated by the discovery of an infested tree in northwestern Linden is ongoing. The Division of Plant Industry has been working with officials in Linden and Carteret to address concerns about tree removal and replacement.

Survey work, both ground and climbing, is continuing in northwestern Linden and Roselle Borough. The New Jersey Cooperative ALB Eradication program thanks the APHIS-PPQ climbers from the Chicago infestation who helped those efforts in late May and early June.

Some questions have arisen lately about the meanings of various markings put on trees that have been surveyed. Property owners should not assume that a blue or orange dot on a tree means it is scheduled for takedown. Such dots signify that the tree has been surveyed. Only those property owners who receive written notice that trees on their property are scheduled for takedown can be assured that is the case.

Finally, as the July Fourth weekend approaches, the New Jersey Cooperative ALB Eradication Program urges all residents of New Jersey to take time during their outdoor activities to look at their trees and make sure they do not bear signs of ALB infestation. Signs include dime-sized, perfectly round exit holes, smaller holes chewed into the bark for egg-laying sites and accumulation of "frass," or sawdust, around tree bases and in limb or branch crotches.